

# Official Minutes for Webb County Commissioners Court Special Meeting

Monday, May 15, 2006 at 1:00 PM

(Approved 06-26-2006)

## Item No. 1

### Call to order by Judge Louis H. Bruni

Let it be remembered that a regular meeting of the Webb County Commissioners Court was held at 1:00 p.m. at the special meeting place with the following members present to wit:

Louis H. Bruni	County Judge
Frank Sciaraffa	Commissioner, Pct. 1
Judith Gutierrez	Commissioner, Pct. 2
Jerry Garza	Commissioner, Pct. 3
Cindy Cortez-Brunner	Commissioner, Pct. 4

Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2006. Present also were Ms. Nora Elia Prado, Deputy County Clerk representing Mrs. Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers and others interested in the business of the Court.

## Item No. 2

### Roll Call – Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Webb County Clerk

## Item No. 3

### Pledge of Allegiance – Led by All

## Item No. 4

### Communications

There were no Communications.

## Item No. 5

### Public Comment

Dr. Hector Farias was present to address Item No. 6. He stated that on January 9, 2006, the court approved the designation of \$1 million in bond monies for the Veterans Museum. He stated that \$95,000 would be used to pay the Museum's outstanding debts and the museum would then be transferred over to Webb County. He stated that the museum would retain its current name, the Juan Francisco Farias Military Museum, once it was transferred to Webb County. He stated that the list presented doesn't show the designation of the \$1 million promised to the Veterans Museum. He stated that the list shows an allotment of \$300,000 for the Veterans Museum while the Sheriff's Department was given \$2 million. He stated that he was concerned that the remaining \$700,000 promised to the Veterans was allocated to the Sheriff. He stated that the Sheriff should not have to ask the court for additional monies when he receives so much in forfeiture funds and commissary revenues.

Mr. José Luis Munoz, Korean War Veteran, was present to address Item No. 9. He stated that he was impressed by the court's comments at the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in which \$1 million in bond monies was designated to the Veterans Museum. He stated that this would not only serve as a tourist attraction but as an educational tool for the local schools. He stated that he has no doubt that Webb County will help out and keep their promise of funding. He stated that having this museum will not only honor veterans who have paid the ultimate price for freedom, but the families that lost them.

Item No. 6      Commissioners Court Workshop on 2006 Capital Outlay, project funding, and identification, with discussion and possible action to approve amounts of capital outlay with specific allocation to individual projects, and to authorize the firm of Estrada & Hinojosa to prepare the official statement for bond issuance and funding of projects as described, and any other matters incident thereto.

Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Executive Administrator, stated that the list of projects was composed of projects that had been approved in concept pending a funding source by the court. He stated that the court can amend the list by adding or deducting items from the proposed list. He stated that the list was prepared by a committee comprised of Mr. Raul Casso, Mr. Leo Flores, Mr. Tomas Rodriguez and himself. He stated that the list of proposed projects can be amended and the court does not have to vote on anything today. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she was concerned about the number of departments requesting vehicles. She stated that there are several departments that have been neglected in the past and continue to be neglected since their items have not been placed on the list for consideration. Judge Bruni stated that he was concerned about the Sheriff's request for 103 vehicles since his main duty is the administration of the jail, not as a first responder or Border Patrol. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that the court needed to be fair and impartial when dividing the monies available for capital outlay and not let one department get the lion's share of it. She stated that the court should consider allocating \$200,000 from Capital Outlay to the Veterans Museum in a show of good faith by allocating them at least half of the \$1 million promised to them. Judge Bruni stated that it was absurd for the Sheriff to request \$3.7 million in Capital Outlay when only an estimated \$4.9 million is available. He stated that he has a lot of respect for the deputies but that the court needed to take into consideration the amount of monies that have already been allotted to the Sheriff's department. Cmr. Sciaraffa requested that the \$200,000 be transferred from Capital Outlay to the Veterans Museum for a total of \$500,000 and that \$1 million more be allotted to Parks projects so that each member of the court can be allotted \$1 million. Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Executive Administrator, stated that the court would need to approve a total amount to be designated for Capital Outlay for Bond Series 2006 so that a bottom line can be established and department requests can be given consideration. He stated that once the categories and total amount of the Bond Series is established, funds can be moved from one category to another but a new category cannot be created. Mr. Leo Flores, County Auditor, stated that the court can also allocate the interest earned for this bond series to a particular project. Mr. Tomas Rodriguez, County Engineer, stated that there was a possibility that instead of constructing a new Radio Communications

Tower, Webb County could rent existing towers and use the monies to upgrade the equipment as required by the state.

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to move \$200,000 from Capital Outlay to the Veterans Museum. Comr. Sciaraffa seconded the motion.

Mr. Villarreal recommended designating any interest earned on this bond series to Capital Outlay to try and replace the monies being moved. Comr. Garza stated that although \$1 million for each Commissioner for Parks seemed like a lot of money, he requested that the court take into consideration that property prices in his precinct tend to be higher than those in other precincts. He stated that his precinct is not eligible for grant monies for these projects like other precincts and requested that Pct. 3 be allotted a bit more in Park monies. Comr. Gutierrez stated that there are issues with entitlement and non-entitlement areas and that though Pct. 3 does not qualify for grant monies, they don't have to deal with county roads or colonias like the other precincts.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to approve the Capital Outlay allocations with the changes approved. Comr. Garza seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Dr. Hector Farias thanked the court for their continued support of veterans.

## Item No. 7      Adjournment

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to adjourn the meeting. Comr. Cortez-Brunner seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.